

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 12, 2007. Claims 1, 4 to 8 and 10 to 16 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 10, 11 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 11, 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2001/0013953 (Uekusa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,283 (Tachibana). Claims 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Uekusa in view of Tachibana, and in further view of well-known art. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Uekusa in view of Tachibana, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,980,326 (Tsuchiya). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns using a feature amount acquired from data of a representative value group of image data stored in a memory area, and then releasing the memory area storing the representative value group, before execution of a first correction and a second correction is completed for the entire image data. That is, an apparatus in accordance with the present invention releases the memory area storing the representative value group immediately after the feature amount is acquired but before applying a correction using the feature data whereby the released memory area may be used in other processing, thus increasing memory use efficiency for an image processing apparatus.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes a corrector, arranged to apply, to image data stored in a memory area, a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction which is different from the first correction; a processor, arranged to apply an

image process required to print on a print medium to the image data output from said corrector; and a recorder, arranged to print an image on the print medium based on the image data output from the processor. The corrector acquires the feature amount from data of a representative value group of the image data stored in the memory area, and then releases the memory area storing the representative value group, before execution of the first correction and before execution of the second correction is completed for the entire image data.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Uekusa and Tachibana, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the apparatus of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a corrector that acquires a feature amount from data of a representative value group of image data stored in a memory area, and then releases the memory area storing the representative value group, before execution of both of a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction, different from the first correction, is completed for the entire image data.

Uekusa discloses a printer driver 103 on a host computer 100. The printer driver 103 acquires information for image correction by analyzing print data and performs a color matching process on the print data based on the acquired information. Since the printer driver 103 is operated on the host computer 100, it can utilize the full capacity of a memory (RAM 109 shown in Fig. 1) which can be handled by the printer driver 103. Therefore, there is no necessity that the memory, which has been used in the acquisition (or extraction) of the feature amount of an image, to be released before image processing is applied to the image stored in the memory. Therefore, Uekusa fails to disclose or suggest a corrector that acquires a feature amount from data of a representative value group of image data stored in a memory area, and

then releases the memory area storing the representative value group, before execution of both of a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction, different from the first correction, is completed for the entire image data.

Furthermore, Tachibana discloses that image data is received and stored in memory blocks, and the memory blocks are released when the image data stored in the memory blocks are recorded to a recording medium. In other words, Tachibana discloses the release of memory between the input of the image data and the output of the image data. However, Tachibana fails to disclose or suggest a corrector that acquires a feature amount from data of a representative value group of image data stored in a memory area, and then releases the memory area storing the representative value group, before execution of both of a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction, different from the first correction, is completed for the entire image data, as featured in Claim 1.

As neither Uekusa nor Tachibana disclose the corrector feature of the present invention, any permissible combination of the references will also fail to disclose or suggest such a feature. In light of this deficiency of Uekusa and Tachibana, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 8, 10, 11 and 16 are directed to a method, computer-readable medium, a printer and an inkjet printer, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 8, 10, 11 and 16 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention; however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicants

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FCHS_WS 2036170v1